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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expands UNIKOM's mandate to armed force capable of preventing small-scale violations of demilitarized zone and Iraq-Kuwait boundary at cost of $112 million for initial six months.

+ Incidents relating to arrival of Special Envoy for Haiti in Port-au-Prince as well as harassment of diplomats by de facto authorities in that country condemned by Secretary-General.

+ Map proposed by Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference is "not the best plan for any of three parties", but "the only realistic hope for ending the bloodshed", the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina tells press conference at Headquarters.

+ Convoy carrying emergency food aid along Nile corridor in Sudan seized and 1,304 metric tons of food confiscated by faction of Sudanese People's Liberation Army, according to United Nations spokesman.

+ Oman and Yemen complete a Boundary Agreement ending 10 years of negotiations on the matter.

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The Security Council has decided to strengthen the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) by replacing an unarmed observation mission with an armed force capable of preventing small-scale violations of the demilitarized zone and the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait.

At a formal meeting this morning, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 806 (1993) by which it asked the Secretary-General to plan and execute a phased deployment of the strengthening of UNIKOM, taking into account the need for economy and other relevant factors. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, which allows for the use of force to maintain international peace and security, the Council also authorized the Mission to prevent problems that might arise from the presence of Iraqi installations in the demilitarized zone on the Kuwaiti side of the newly demarcated boundary.

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The Secretary-General has estimated that three mechanized infantry battalions, supported by communications and other support staff, are necessary to enable UNIKOM to carry out its new mandate -- a total of 3,645 military personnel at a cost of $112 million for an initial six-month period.

At the outset of the meeting, the President of the Council, Ahmed Snoussi (Morocco), welcomed the new Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Madeleine K. Albright.

Ms. Albright, in response, said the Council had moved from the margin to the absolute centre of international peace and security affairs, in a remarkably short space of time. She said that in carrying out her new functions, she would be guided by the joint responsibility of all Council members to build a world of peace "informed by principle and protected by cocperative security".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned the incidents surrounding the arrival of his Special Envoy, Dante Caputo, at Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The incidents included the harassment of diplomats and attacks on their vehicles by the de facto authorities, both at the airport and at the hotel where Mr. Caputo and his party were scheduled to stay.

According to a statement by the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills, Mr. Caputo, who returned to New York last night, had reported on his mission to the Secretary-General this morning. Mr. Boutros-Ghali was reviewing the situation in Haiti and considering the next steps in the light of the situation described to him by Mr. Caputo.

The aim of Mr. Caputo's mission was to facilitate talks on a political solution to the crisis in Haiti and on the possible dispatch by the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) of a civilian-led mission to monitor the human rights situation in the country.

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The map proposed by the Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference was "not the best plan for any of the three parties, but it is a painful compromise that all three parties should accept", the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mile Akmandzic, told a press conference at Headquarters today. Mr. Akmandzic, who is a member of the Bosnian Croat delegation to the internal talks on political arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina, added that it was the only "realistic hope for ending the bloodshed".

During talks with members of the Security Council yesterday, the Bosnian Croat delegation had told the Council that those who were opposing the plan were "obliged to propose a better plan", which his delegation would then gladly consider. However, he said, if the new plan was not better, then those who had proposed it "should bear responsibility for prolonging the conflict" in Bosnia and Herzegovina. What was needed now was implementation and enforcement of the plan, if necessary by international forces.

Mr. Akmandzic urged that when looking at the plan proposed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, too much emphasis should not be given to the delineation of provinces. Regardless of how the lines were drawn, each province would undoubtedly have one group in larger number than another group, he said. For the Bosnian Croat delegation, the provincial boundaries were only a vehicle for the decentralization of power and were in no way a vehicle to divide peoples. His delegation believed that the provincial boundaries would become meaningless because the Croatian people were committed to live with Serbs and Muslims in one State.

Mr. Akmandzic is the Bosnian Croat representative in the internal negotiations with the Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Serbs on the political arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The two Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav talks, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, have proposed a plan, which if agreed to by all three parties would divide the Republic into 10 semi-autonomous provinces.

For talks with third parties such as the United Nations, Mr. Akmandzic is a member of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Foreign Minister Haris Slajdic, leader of the Bosnian Croats Mate Boban, a member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a member of the Bosnian Serb government. Together they represent all three parties living in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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A convoy transporting critically needed emergency food aid along the Nile corridor between Malakal and Juba in southern Sudan was seized and nearly 1,304 metric tons of food confiscated by the Nasir faction of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

At a Headquarters press briefing today a spokesman for the Secretary-General said that the Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General for Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan, Michael Priestley, had been instructed to protest the incident and seek assurances that commitments made regarding the safety of relief personnel and supplies would be fully respected.

The spokesman said the incident was deplorable not only because it deprived those so desperately in need but also called into question the validity of the agreements reached with all parties concerned on improved access for humanitarian assistance in southern Sudan.

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The Oman-Yemen Boundary Agreement on the final demarcation of the boundary between the two countries was registered at United Nations Headquarters yesterday, thus ending 10 years of negotiations on the matter.

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The Agreement, in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter on the peaceful settlement of disputes, was submitted to the Department of Legal Affairs by the Permanent Representative of Oman and the Chargé d'affaires of Yemen.

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